



Fire Victims Relief Fund Established for Caltrans Employees

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) have created a statewide relief fund to aid Caltrans employees who have lost their homes or have been seriously affected by the recent Southern California wildfires.

At least 16 Caltrans employee's homes were destroyed last week and numerous employees were forced to evacuate, hoping to escape the tragedy.

If you would like to reach out and help your co-workers by making a donation to the "Fire Victims Relief Fund" make your check payable to the "California Transportation Foundation" and send directly to CTF at P.O. Box 163453, Sacramento, CA 95816. Your donations are tax deductible and the cancelled check will act as the receipt. The lower left-hand memo section of the check should identify the district that you are from and the words "Fire Relief." Another option is to give your check/donation to your district liaison, who will forward all contributions to the CTF, on behalf of your district.

The district liaisons are as follows: District 1, Ann Jones (707)445-6444; District 2, Sue Gale (530)225-3270; District 3, Evelyn Dodson (530)741-7135; District 4, Kathy Freeman (510)286-5861; District 5, Sharon Bladow (805)549-3101; District 6, José L. Camarena (559)488-4067; District 7, Jacque Wright (213)897-2599; District 8, Darla Matthews (909)388-7722; District 9, Andrea Loven (760)872-5235; District 10, Tina Walker (209)948-7977; District 11, Olga Estrada

(619)688-6670; District 12, Nancy Mogote (949)724-2341 and Headquarters, Barbara Frith (916)654-6547.

The CTF will be supplementing contributions made by Caltrans employees by up to 25 percent. "We are pleased to be able to help," said Executive Officer of CTF, Heinz Heckeroth.

A committee comprised of Southern California district employees is being established to evaluate the needs of impacted

Caltrans employees and the devastation they are facing. All situations will be prioritized and the proceeds will go toward the most destitute situations.

CTF frequently lends support to the Department, its employees and their family members in times of need. The organization also funds scholarships and career days, provides memorials to honor deceased employees and stages public events recognizing transportation excellence. In addition, it co-sponsors seminars, conferences, research projects and studies. Most

of the beneficiaries of these activities are Caltrans employees.

The impact of ten wildfires raging throughout Southern California is staggering. These fires have killed 22 people, consumed nearly 750,000 acres, destroyed more than 3,570 homes and businesses and forced the evacuation of thousands of people. Last week, due to the conditions of extreme danger and widespread destruction caused by the wildfires, Governor Davis proclaimed a State of Emergency in San Bernardino, Ventura, Los Angeles and San Diego counties. President Bush also declared the area a major disaster.



At least 16 Caltrans employee's homes faced destruction as seen above in the Southern California wildfires last week. A "Fire Victims Relief Fund" has been established to aid those employees.

Photo by District 7, Steve Deloren

Proposal Would Allow 'Hybrid' Vehicles in Carpool Lanes

Governor Gray Davis last month announced a proposal to improve the state's air quality by allowing efficient, gas-electric "hybrid" vehicles on California's more than 1,100 miles of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, better known as carpool lanes, for single occupant hybrid vehicles.

The hybrid vehicles achieve very high gas mileage and produce very few emissions. The HOV lanes currently are restricted to multiple-passenger vehicles, motorcycles, transit and inherently low emission vehicles (e.g., electric and natural gas vehicles).

Hybrid

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Director Jeff Morales

Once again, the Caltrans family has risen to the occasion meeting even the challenges that nature has placed in the way. Not since a wall of flame swept the Oakland Hills a dozen years ago, have Caltrans employees and the state itself been so pressed by wildfire.

On Oct. 20, 1991, a small blaze in the foothills above the East Bay fanned itself into a major conflagration, blackening 1,600 acres, killing 25 people and causing a staggering \$2 billion in damage. Caltrans employees served alongside firefighters and other government workers to beat back the fire.

Now, almost 12 years to the day later, Caltrans workers once again stood in Harm's Way. Fanned by the bellows of Santa Ana winds, brush fires have sprung up on thousands of acres across the sere hills of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

An estimated 12,000 firefighters battled the fires that raged over an estimated 750,000 acres, destroying more than 3,570 homes, killing 22 people and injuring many more.

As of this writing, up to sixteen Caltrans workers have lost their own homes, and at least forty-eight have been evacuated. We fear that others could be affected.

Caltrans Employees "Made of Stern Stuff"

As our publication deadline approached, we have also learned about the destruction of a storage shed in District 11 and the threat to the Descanso Maintenance yard. In District 8, the Panorama Maintenance Yard was lost and facilities were also facing danger in Burnt Mill, Dry Creek and Camp Angeles.

Of course, the state has opened local assistance centers for emergency help such as food and housing and other practical necessities ranging from financial aid to debris removal, road clearing, and crisis counseling.

"The last thing that families and business owners need is to deal with an uncar-

ing, temporary child or pet care, the Red Cross and assistance from the Federal Management Agency (FEMA).

However, on a more personal level, Caltrans has worked with the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) to establish a fund to help fellow workers who have been affected by the Southern California fires.

Those wishing to donate, may send tax-deductible checks to the Fire Victims Relief Fund. You can find information about the fund in an accompanying story on the front page in this edition of the CT News. I urge everyone in the Department to be generous in the face of this human tragedy.

Of course, even as individual employees worry about the danger to their property and loved ones, many of those same people are out on the fire line doing the important work of the Department.

They have kept a careful watch on I-15's Cajon Pass, assessing any possible danger to travelers. And they worked with law enforcement to close I-215 from State Highway 30 to I-15. Full closures occurred on State Highways 18, 330, 38, 189, and 173. And assessment teams representing Design, Construction, Maintenance and Environmental-- were in the fields to determine the damage to various highways and facilities, and estimate the costs for repair.

In a word, Caltrans employees have shown the kind of dedicated professionalism in the face of this disaster that I have come both to expect and appreciate. You have risen to meet other natural disasters, and now you are showing once again that you are made of stern stuff.

Thank you.

*Not since a wall
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ing bureaucracy," said Gov. Gray Davis as he ordered the opening of one-stop emergency assistance centers.

"We are cutting through the red tape to ensure that families and businesses affected by these wildfires quickly get the help they need. These local centers will offer the full range of services that government can provide in one place."

Any affected Caltrans workers should contact the Resource and Referral Service, a paid benefit to state employees, at (800) 873-4636 or www.lifecare.com. The group can help with emergency shelters and hospitals, food and cloth-



For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to the Caltrans:

Public Affairs Office
1120 N Street, Room 1200
Mail Stop 49
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-5456
(916) 653-4086 (TTY) or CRS - 711



Hybrid

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Currently qualifying low emission vehicles display a permit to let law enforcement officers know that they are legal. Hybrid vehicles allowed under the new proposal would utilize this existing process or something similar.

The proposal requires approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation. It would apply to vehicles that meet the emission requirements of Advanced Technology-Partial Emission Vehicles (AT-PZEV) and get at least 45 miles per gallon.

These gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles would be allowed in the HOV lanes.

Early generation gasoline electric hybrid vehicles would be granted access to HOV lanes as well. At present, there are approximately 20,000 hybrids in this class.

However, the proposed program would last only as long as the HOV lanes are operating effectively and provide air quality improvements.

Carpool lanes, which currently require at least two (and in some cases three) occupants per vehicle, move twice as many people during peak hours as mixed-flow lanes.

At the same time the hybrid-HOV lane proposal was developed, the state moved ahead on two HOV lane projects one in Sacramento and the second in the Inland Empire to expand its HOV network.

California's 1,112 miles of HOV lanes amount to approximately 40 percent of the nation's total. The state expects to build another 1,045 lanes in the next two decades.

In early October, the state officially opened a four-mile section



The 2004 Toyota Prius above meets new emission requirements and achieves at least 45 miles per gallon, the proposed requirement which would allow new generation hybrid vehicles to have single occupant access to HOV lanes.

Photo courtesy of Toyota.

section of the I-405.

In late October, the state also opened another five miles of carpool lanes that are expected to bring traffic congestion relief to northeast Sacramento.

The eastbound lanes are part of a \$35.1 million project by Caltrans, Sacramento County and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). When complete, nine miles

of new carpool lanes will be added to both directions of I-80.

The project also includes improvements to the Madison Avenue interchange, designed to increase capacity and reduce congestion at one of the busiest interchanges in the Sacramento metropolitan region. Improvements include the addition of carpool lanes to all Madison Avenue on ramps, widening of all ramps, expansion of the over crossing from six lanes to eight lanes, and installation of ramp meters.

When completed in spring 2005, the project will connect commuters to the Regional Transit light rail station at I-80 and Watt Avenue.



If approved, new proposal would allow approximately 20,000 early generation hybrid vehicles, such as the Toyota Prius above, to have single occupant access to HOV lanes.

Photo by Jon Hiriz, HO Photography

Caltrans Employees Receive National Recognition

Three Caltrans employees, all from different areas within the Department, have recently received national recognition for their efforts above and beyond the normal scope of their duties. Nigel Blampied, Diana Gomez and Kurt Haukoil are national leaders in various areas of transportation.

The Project Management Institute (PMI) has awarded the 2003 PMI Distinguished Contribution Award to Nigel Blampied, Chief of the Office of Project Management Process Improvement. The award recognizes and honors particularly significant achievements or sustained performances by individuals who contribute to the advancement of the project management profession and PMI.

PMI, with almost 115,000 members in approximately 135 countries, is the world's leading advocate for the project management profession. PMI sets industry standards, conducts research and provides education, certification and professional exchange opportunities designed to strengthen and further the profession.

Blampied is recognized for his work in government project management. He was the project manager for the Government Extension to "A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK)." A 26-member team of government project managers, drawn from eight countries and representing 17 government departments and consulting firms, developed this document. Participants included individuals from South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States and Australia.

The government extension project was managed along standard PMBOK lines, with a work breakdown structure and a schedule. Throughout its two-year life, with an all-volunteer team working in their own time, the project remained on schedule.

Blampied was also a core team member for the PMI Work Breakdown Structure Practice Standard and the "PMBOK Guide - 2004 Edition." He is also a member of the team that is developing the Construction Extension to the PMBOK Guide.

During Blampied's presidency of the PMI Sacramento Valley Chapter, the chapter started a monthly Government Project Management Forum. This forum provides educational and networking opportunities for project management practitioners in Sacramento. Most participants are from California government agencies.

Blampied's active involvement and leadership in highway project management for 28 years has provided great benefit to the

transportation industry and public recognition to Caltrans. He has been instrumental in making numerous improvements to project management on the State Highway System, and government agencies in other states and countries regularly seek his advice.

In August, Diana Gomez, Chief of the Office of Traffic Management, responsible for the District 6 Transportation Management Center, was installed as the third Latina to serve as National President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Incorporated. Gomez will serve for two years as president of the volunteer-based organization.

The SHPE, Incorporated was founded in 1974 to promote the development of Hispanics in engineering, math and science. Its goal is to achieve education excellence, economic opportunity and social equity.

SHPE has over 10,000 members in over 200 student and 41 professional chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Gomez held the offices of regional vice president, secretary and treasurer and served under four presidents of SHPE.

On the chapter level, Gomez served as president of the student chapter at California State University (CSU), Fresno, and as president of the professional chapter.

Gomez, who was drawn to engineering in high school when a female engineer lectured her class, has become an engineering advocate in the community. For five years, she has helped provide a framework to expose high school math and science students to engineering as a career.

Gomez joined SHPE as a college student 15 years ago. She began

her career with Caltrans only a few months after graduation from CSU Fresno with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. While steadily rising through the ranks, she has built a distinguished track record while simultaneously obtaining her professional engineer (PE) license.

Within SHPE, Gomez plans to use her training from the Caltrans Managing for Excellence course. "I learned that I have to take responsibility for myself and for my staff," Gomez explained. "If one of my staff members fails, I have to be able to answer three basic questions: 'Did I provide all the tools and resources to that person? Did I provide all the necessary training? Did I provide all the proper coaching to that person?'"



Nigel Blampied is presented with the 2003 Project Management Institute (PMI) Distinguished Contribution Award by the Chair of the PMI Board, Debbie O'Bray.



Diana Gomez has been installed as the third Latina to serve as National President for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Incorporated.

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If I can say 'yes' then I know that I have done my job, but if I say 'no' to any of those questions, then I haven't given them what they need to succeed." I also learned that you need to listen and pay attention to others because you can learn something really simple from them that can make a world of difference."

The third Caltrans employee to receive recent national recognition is Kurt Haukohl, Associate Aviation Consultant for the Division of Aeronautics. The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) bestowed the 2003 State Aviation Distinguished Service Award upon him. This honor recognizes state aviation personnel who have excelled in their service and dedication to aviation progress and development in their state.

Recognizing that the vitality and effectiveness of a state aviation agency directly reflects the quality of agency personnel, NASAO resolved to identify and honor a staff member who has performed in an exemplary manner and whose contributions serve as an inspiration to other state aviation agency personnel.

Founded in 1931, NASAO ensures uniformity of safety measures, standardizes airport regulations and develops a national air transportation system responsive to local, state, and regional needs. NASAO represents the men and women in state government aviation agencies who serve the public interest in all 50 states, Guam and Puerto Rico. These highly skilled professionals are full partners with the federal government in the development and maintenance of the safest and most efficient aviation system in the world.

As one of the Division of Aeronautics' six Associate Aviation Consultants, Haukohl is responsible for conducting state safety and permit compliance inspections at more than 25 public-use



On behalf of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Chief Deputy Director Tony Harris presented Kurt Haukohl with the 2003 State Aviation Distinguished Service Award.

airports and 15 special-use hospital heliports in 4 counties on an annual basis.

Haukohl's supervisor, Gary Cathey, praised his accomplishments. "Kurt is an extremely technically competent and dedicated Aviation Consultant who not only has a keen ability to precisely identify existing and potential aeronautical safety issues but also has acquired a broad depth of experience to offer multiple, creative and effective solutions."

Individual accomplishments contributing to this national award include his role in assisting a Department of Defense (DOD) contractor to provide timely delivery of a weapons system to the federal government in support of the Government's War on Terrorism. As a result of the terrorist actions on September 11, 2001, and US military operations in Afghanistan, it was imperative to construct a runway capable of supporting its operational requirements. Haukohl met with key players to ensure that the runway was designed and constructed to all state and federal airport design standards, and completed the project on a previously undeveloped site within 12 months.

Haukohl also played a significant role in supporting fire suppression operations during the height of fire season. Ramona Airport, a primary staging base of operations for the California Department of Forestry's fire suppression aircraft, needed to lengthen its runway and parallel taxiway. After determining the runway would require closure during various phases of construction to maintain operational safety, Haukohl worked with airport management and engineers in developing a plan to convert the parallel taxiway to a temporary runway. This allowed fire suppression aircraft full access to the airport at the height of fire season. Due to Haukohl's insight and ability to provide a solution to a unique problem, all runway design standards were maintained and no aircraft were denied access to the airport during construction.

Other contributing factors to the NASAO award selection included Haukohl's involvement in termination of unsafe practices at Catalina Island Airport, and providing unique solutions to rectify the situation. He also assisted in relieving congestion at Los Angeles International Airport and designed a plan to maintain uninterrupted service, during a period of reconstruction, to a fleet of helicopters transporting critically ill patients to and from the Cedars Sinai Hospital Heliport in Los Angeles County.

The exemplary efforts by these three Caltrans employees are great achievements not only for themselves but also for Caltrans as a transportation leader in the nation and the world.

Caltrans Employees Make Strides Against Fighting Strokes

Less than one percent of the world's population has attempted to complete a marathon. Three Caltrans employees are joining a team of people from across the country who are dedicated to doing just that, in support of the American Stroke Association (ASA). Participants in the marathon can either run or walk.

Each Saturday morning at the American

River Bike Trail, while many are still sleeping or having their morning coffee, these dedicated individuals are participating in a five-month training program.

Laurie Sato, Chief, Statewide Facilities, Leasing and Operations Branch, is revved up for the 2003 Honolulu Marathon and Cesley Nixon, Associate Right-of-Way Agent, and Lonora Graves,

Transportation Planner, are preparing for the 2004 Arizona Rock N Roll Marathon.

Fred Dial, Senior Transportation Planner, John C. Rogers, Senior Bridge Engineer, and Teresa Westervelt, Accounting Officer, participated on the Sacramento American Stroke Association

*Strides**continued on page 7*

Jim Appleton Honored With PEGG 2003 Professional Achievement Award

Each year, the Professional Engineers in California Government (PEGG) awards a highly qualified Engineer, Architect, Landscape Architect, Engineering Geologist, Land Surveyor or other related state employee with the PEGG Professional Achievement Award.

The recipient generally has many years of distinguished service, is a pioneer of new technology or is an otherwise outstanding professional.

The 2003 recipient, with a unanimous vote from the judging panel, is Caltrans employee, James Marlow Appleton, Professional Land Surveyor and Certified Photogrammetrist.

In his role as the state-wide functional manager of Photogrammetry for the last six years, Appleton has led a multi-disciplinary team of technicians, administrators, photogrammetrists, land surveyors and engineers.

This is the first time PEGG has honored a Land Surveyor or Photogrammetrist with the Professional Achievement Award.

Appleton is an honors graduate of the Surveying and Photogrammetry program at California State University (CSU) Fresno and his close association with CSU Fresno continues today. He has been a member of the Geomatics Engineering Program Advisory Council for the past four years, helping to define the vision, mission and goals of one of the most premier programs of its type in the nation.

The Office of Photogrammetry has collaborated with CSU Fresno professors, researching several projects and jointly publishing the results in national and international journals. Appleton was recently invited by the President of the University to be inducted into CSU Fresno's Pinnacle Society in recognition of the Department's service to the University.

Deputy Division Chief for Engineering Technology Mickey Horn praised Appleton's mark of distinction. "During his tenure, the Office of Photogrammetry has redefined its role in the Department and has become recognized as innovative and service oriented."

Several key accomplishments include: a marked reduction in the average delivery time for photogrammetric mapping; suc-

cessful implementation of Airborne-Global Positioning System (AB-GPS) control procedures which significantly reduce field survey control requirements and exposure of field surveyors to dangerous high-speed traffic; and the widespread acceptance of the Digital Highway Inventory Photography Program (DHIPP), enabling Department staff to perform their jobs more efficiently. One of the keys to the success of both DHIPP and AB-GPS was the early involvement of stakeholders, including end users and industry.

Appleton has represented the Department on a Transportation Research Board Committee, the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Spatial Information Task Force, the National Academy of Sciences' National Consortia for Remote Sensing Application to Transportation, and the California Spatial Reference Center.

Mr. Appleton has given back to his profession through the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing as a Regional Director, by teaching photogrammetry at Sacramento City College, and by working with the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors as an Expert Examiner.

"Jim Appleton has made outstanding contributions to the profession of land surveying," said Mark Sheahan, President of PEGG. "His exemplary leadership in the Office of Photogrammetry has allowed for innovative ideas that helped increase productivity while streamlining the Caltrans design delivery process. He is an excellent example of the many professional engineers in California. Government who go the extra mile for their profession and California taxpayers."

In addition to focusing on his many professional activities, Jim is a University of California Certified Master Gardener, a wide-ranging reader, a woodworker, and has been bitten by the sailing bug. In appreciation of his efforts, the Photogrammetry senior staff paid for Appleton to take sailing lessons. One of his ongoing focuses has been employee recognition. It appears that Photogrammetry staff has adopted this philosophy.



This year is the first time that the Professional Engineers in California Government (PEGG) has honored a photogrammetrist or land surveyor with their Professional Achievement Award. The 2003 recipient, with a unanimous vote from the judging panel, is Jim Appleton.

Photo by Jan Hiltz, HQ Photography

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Train to End Stroke Team earlier this year. Now, they are volunteering their personal time as team captains to encourage and support the participants.

About 600,000 Americans will have a stroke this year, and 160,000 will die, making stroke the nation's third leading cause of death and the first leading cause of disability. And, 29 percent of people who have strokes are under the age of 65.

Sato is running to raise money for the ASA, celebrating her well being and one-year anniversary of her own life-threatening stroke.

On New Year's Day in 2002, Sato's head was opened to clamp a bleeding vein that had caused the stroke, specifically, a cerebral aneurysm. Thirty staples were required to close her scalp.

Sato has rebounded with the support of her family and friends. She is now urging others to support her goals of the marathon, particularly through donations. She is trying to raise \$4,000 to cover the cost of training and to donate to the ASA's research and advocacy.

Nixon and Graves are each striving to raise \$2,900 through various fundraising efforts.

Nixon will run the 26.2-mile Rock N Roll Marathon on January 11, 2004. She has always enjoyed sports,



Pictured above, John C. Rogers (captain), Laurie Sato (participant), Lonora Graves (participant), Fred Dial (captain), Cesley Nixon (participant) and Teresa Westervelt (captain) have all participated in the American Stroke Association marathon training program to fight against strokes.

Photo by Ed Andersen, HQ Photography

basketball, track, volleyball and skiing but has put her participation on hold while having and raising three children. The ASA Marathon Training Program provides her with a serious exercise program to get her back on track.

"By joining the ASA's Train to End Stroke program, I have a coach, a team to run with, a clinic, training schedules and a reason that makes this more than a personal goal. I am helping to raise funds for stroke research, education and advocacy programs," said

Nixon. "Life is grand and the blessings keep coming. This is just one way for me to give back."

Joining Nixon in Arizona will be Graves who was inspired to complete the Rock N Roll Marathon on behalf of her aunt who suffered a stroke a few years ago.

Graves beams with enthusiasm. "Not only is the training program allowing me to walk distances I never imagined, the fundraising for ASA is allowing an opportunity to help in the fight against stroke."

If you would like to donate to these participants, you may contact them directly. More information about the American Stroke Association can be found at <http://www.strokeassociation.com>.

Caltrans Continues to Improve Air Quality

The Division of Equipment is in the process of retrofitting approximately 90 heavy duty, diesel fueled vehicles that will help clean the air over the next year across Central and Northern California. Another 150 vehicles are near retrofit completion in Southern California.

In August 2000, Caltrans embarked upon a "Greening the Fleet" program to improve the environment and reduce emissions from the Caltrans mobile fleet without affecting the Department's overall mission to improve mobility across California.

The installation of Cleaire Longview aftertreatment systems significantly reduces the introduction of diesel particu-



Photo by Jon Hirtz, HQ Photography

The installation of Cleaire Longview exhaust aftertreatment systems on Caltrans mobile fleet significantly reduces the introduction of toxic air contaminants and precursors to ozone into the air.

late matter (toxic air contaminant) and nitrogen oxides (precursors to ozone) into the air.

The new retrofit will have a positive impact on many areas in California that do not meet national standards for particulate matter and ground level ozone. The American Lung Association has shown that these substances cause potential harm to children with asthma and the elderly.

"The retrofit of these vehicles will improve the environment and the quality of life across California at a critical time when the population and number of ve-

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One Hundred Years in Flight

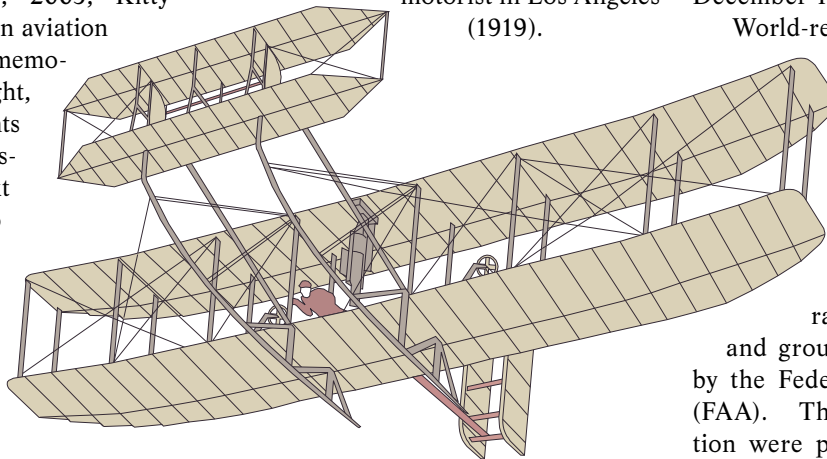
One cold day in December 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright changed the world forever. With his brother Wilbur running alongside to steady the right wing, Orville Wright lifted off the ground at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, for a grand total of 12 seconds, and traveled 120 feet in the world's first successful airplane flight. Life on earth would never be the same.

On December 12-17, 2003, Kitty Hawk will be the host of an aviation festival designed to commemorate the last century of flight, celebrate the achievements of aviators throughout history and inspire the next generation of aviators to further the Wright brothers' dream.

It's hard to believe it has been almost 100 years since the bicycle-building Wright brothers stunned the world with their achievement. Their innovation inspired others to dare to dream.

In the century since that pivotal moment, much has changed. Californians have taken up where the North Carolinians left off, and have contributed significantly to the aviation industry's growth and development. And California has been the site of many "firsts" in aviation history.

The pioneering efforts include the first established aircraft factory in Santa Ana (1909), the first established airport in Modesto (1910), and the first aircraft takeoff from a ship, which occurred in San Francisco Bay (1910). Others were the first airmail flight between Petaluma and Santa Rosa (1911) and the first use of aircraft to track and arrest a speeding motorist in Los Angeles (1919).



Other significant milestones include Amelia Earhart, the first person to fly solo from Honolulu to Oakland (1935), Chuck Yeager, the first pilot to break the sound barrier at Edwards Airforce Base (1947) and San Diego astronaut Sally Ride, America's first woman in space (1983).

This summer, the Experimental

Aircraft Association (EAA), in partnership with the National Park Service and the National Association of State Aviation Officials, conducted the "50 Flags to Kitty Hawk" initiative. One EAA member from each state flew their state flag to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, for permanent display in honor of the centennial flight celebration to take place on December 17, 2003.

World-renowned aviator Martha King, of San Diego, delivered the California state flag and proclamation to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, piloting a Falcon 10 jet. King is the first woman to hold not only every class of pilot rating but also every flight and ground instructor rating offered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The state flag and proclamation were presented to her on May 5th at a California celebration at the Golden State Museum.

During the celebration, Caltrans Aeronautics Division Chief Austin Wiswell welcomed King to the Golden State Museum's new exhibit, "100 Years Aloft: California Takes Wing." The exhibit high-

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Air Quality

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hicles in the state continue to grow," said Director Morales.

The Greening the Fleet program has also implemented other emission reducing strategies. This includes retrofitting or purchasing 236 arrowboard and 250 message sign trailers with solar power; replacing 84 gasoline sedans with gas/electric hybrid passenger vehicles; and retrofitting or purchasing 103 low dust emitting sweepers and 1,250 gas/propane bi-fuel vehicles.

The Greening the Fleet program has received recognition from such groups as the American Lung Association, the Propane Council, the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for its contributions to improving air quality.

The program was also honored with an "Innovations in Transportation" award by Director Morales for its leadership role in improving air quality by reducing mobile fleet emissions.

At right, a closer look at the Cleaire Longview exhaust aftertreatment system, a major contribution to the Caltrans Greening the Fleet program. Photograph by Jon Hirtz, HQ Photography.



In Memoriam, Paul E. Gingell



Paul E. Gingell, a long-time fixture in the Director's Office in Sacramento Headquarters, died Oct. 27 in a San Francisco hospital where he had been treated for two weeks for coronary complications.

Paul would have celebrated his 72nd birthday on Nov. 9.

Known simply as "Paul," Gingell was a recognizable figure throughout the Department, and served in recent years as a receptionist. He answered phones and directed calls to

the appropriate person, office or division within Headquarters.

"At some point in our daily work schedule for many years, we all came in contact with Paul," said Chief Deputy Director Tony Harris.

"He was a gentle, peaceful person, who always took the time to help in whatever way he could to direct outside callers, as well as departmental staff, to the appropriate area of expertise. His professionalism and courtesy to others was commendable."

Born Nov. 9, 1932, Paul began his Caltrans career in 1979 as a Permanent Intermittent Office Assistant II in the functional area of Administration. He was made full time in December of the same year.

In 1990 he became eligible to work as a Word Processing Technician in addition to his duties as an Office Assistant/Typing.

Paul lived a quiet, private life. Although he rarely discussed his off-duty hours, he did occasionally refer to his interest in and attendance at arts, opera and theater events in the Bay Area.

Between 1952 and 1955, he was enlisted in the U.S. Army, and from 1958 to 1960 he attended San Francisco City College.

Director's Office employees MariJane Stahl, Teri Rea and Patricia Kuhar visited Paul in the hospital on Oct. 25. They said that he indicated during the visit that he loved Caltrans and his job.

Asked if he had a message for fellow Caltrans employees, Paul said, "Love, kisses and hugs."

Paul requested no funeral service. He is being cremated and will be taken by a Neptune Society vessel to the ocean near the Golden Gate Bridge for interment.

He will be missed.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION ON HOW TO IMPROVE STATE OPERATIONS? IF SO, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD! CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM AT (916) 227-9803 OR VISIT THE WEB SITE AT:

<http://admin.dot.ca.gov/hr/recognition/index/shtml>

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lights California's role in aviation history.

The United States Postal service also honored the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight this year. It issued a 37-cent First Flight commemorative postage stamp.

"With the issuance of the First Flight stamp, we honor a moment in history that has taken us all beyond the horizon of our wildest dreams," said Ralph Moden, Postal Service Senior Vice President, Government Relations.

Looking back at the last 100 years in aviation, it is inspiring and incredible to think what the future may hold.

Exams Schedule

The Caltrans Examination Office anticipates that the following examination bulletins will have a Final Filing date in November/December:

Associate Fiscal Systems Analyst, Caltrans (Promo)
Landscape Architect, Caltrans (Promo)
Senior Transportation Electrical Engineer (Specialist) (Promo)
Warehouse Worker (Promo)

The following examinations allow for continuous filing:

Associate Right of Way Agent (Promo)
Caltrans Heavy Equipment Mechanic (Promo)
Caltrans Heavy Equipment Mechanic (Open)
Transportation Surveyor, Caltrans (Open)
Transportation Surveyor –Party Chief, Caltrans (Open)

The following examinations allow for continuous filing on the Internet:

Senior Environmental Planner (Promo)
Senior Right of Way Agent (Promo)
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